[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The member is referred to G. O. Dis. No. 1197 of 22/Revenue, dated the 2nd November, 1922, published in the Government Gazette dated the 7th November, 1922. The other recommendations of the Board are receiving the attention of Government.

State Bank.

118. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state at what stage of consideration the idea of opening a State Bank for Travancore stands?

MR. K. GEORGE: The scheme relating to a State-aided Bank which is an important one deserves careful consideration and is engaging the attention of Government.

Supply and Price of Salt.

119. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council why Bombay salt and local salt are not supplied to the Quilon Depôt?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that people prefer Bombay salt to Tinnevelly salt for domestic use and that the prices of Bombay salt and local salt at Quilon are very high?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to give a statement of the prices of Bombay salt and Tinnevelly salt at the places whence they are brought, as also the cost of importation of these two kinds of salt?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state why Bombay salt is not sent out of the Alwaye Circle from the Munambam Depôt?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council whether the Tinnevelly salt issued from the Quilon Depôt agrees with the sample produced by the contractor?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to state why Bombay salt and Tinnevelly salt are sold in certain proportions and why Bombay salt alone is not sold at the Alleppey Salt Depôt?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The quantity of local salt manufactured is hardly sufficient to meet the demands of the Trivandrum Division. The quantity of salt required for the Quilon Depôt is therefore imported from Tinnevelly on account of the convenience of transport. As soon as a sufficient quantity of local salt becomes available, it will be transported to Quilon in lieu of Tinnevelly salt.

(*b*) Government are informed that the predilection in favour of Bombay salt is gradually wearing away. Bombay salt is less pure than home or Tinnevelly salt. The retail price of Bombay salt is the same both at Quilon and at Alleppey, *viz.*, 4 chs. per *Edangali*.

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